

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, from line 14 through line 23, with the following paragraph:

The plug is pre-loaded and retained in a circumferential firing chamber 144 defined in the annular cross section of the cylindrical cartridge 106. The plug is curved to follow the arc shape of the firing chamber 144. The plug has a sharp piercing end 148 to penetrate tissue and a flat enlarged diameter cap portion 150 that is engaged by a firing spring 151 to drive the plug circumferentially through the captured tissue 138 and into the ring 142 frictionally held in a ring receptacle 152 formed in the cartridge 106. Because the plug 140 travels along the outside wall ~~156~~ 144 of the firing chamber during its travel, the enlarged flat head 150 is offset from the center of the plug body to fully capture the driving force of firing spring 151 and to keep the plug 140 aligned within the firing chamber 144 as it is advanced.